

out that it is not that Republicans don't have alternatives or shouldn't have alternatives. I individually have 20 bills dealing with health care under my name and have cosponsored at least 30 additional bills. There are a plethora of bills out there with Republican names that do everything from fix the problems that doctors have with the sustainable growth rate formula in Medicare to liability reform. They are not part of this bill. They are not part of the discussion this week. What is the discussion this week is that monstrosity behind the gentleman.

It is our obligation, it is our obligation to our patients and to our profession to kill this bill so we can then begin to talk about some of the alternatives that are rational, because it makes no sense to preclude a wellness program simply because it doesn't fit into some chairman's idea of what a health care bill should look like, some chairman who might have been here since 1974, by the way.

That is the problem we have before us this week, is this bill. After we get rid of this bill, after we get past this bill, yes, we can begin to talk about those things to provide benefit to the American people, help to the American people who actually need it.

You said it earlier in this hour. It is that 8 to 10 million people that have a preexisting condition. If we could make their problem go away, and we can, the Congressional Budget Office estimates between \$8 billion and \$20 billion over 10 years. That is a far cry from \$1 trillion. We could make that problem go away with State reinsurance programs and State high-risk pools. We have that power within our hands. Some people may argue that constitutionally we don't have that power, but it would be a darn sight better than what we are talking about doing tonight.

Mandates have no place in a free society. There was no mandate that required me to buy an iPod, yet everyone in the country has an iPod or iPhone today because it is a great product, and everyone wants one. That is what we should be looking at in our insurance policies, how to create products that people actually want, not making someone take a policy that the insurance company says I can make money selling. That is where we will go with mandates.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Reclaiming my time, I would also say it takes away personal freedom to decide what is best for your family. For instance, in my family now we don't need fertility evaluations that maybe other families do need. They should be able to purchase those if they need to.

I want the viewing public tonight to take a peak at H.R. 3962, which is a new name for H.R. 3200. I would encourage you to begin to read this. It will take some time. But the American people did read H.R. 3200. They actually did. I had hundreds that came to me at town halls that printed it off the Internet and read it. It is probably just out on the Net.

It is amazingly complex, and the devil is in the details. When you start reading the details, and I did begin the details today, that is where you begin to see what you lose in this.

Mr. CASSIDY. If the gentleman would yield, I was a little late coming over here because we were having a telephone town hall. For the folks who are watching, that is where we from Washington have a phone call that goes out to thousands of people in our district, and we have a telephone town hall.

There was a woman that got on and she just nailed it. You pointed out, we have a 2,000-page, \$1 trillion bill that was introduced last Thursday that we are going to vote on this coming Friday that is going to remake 17 percent of our gross domestic product, drastically affecting the health care for us all.

If it seems kinds of crazy that we would do that, this woman calls in, Rebecca, and I happen to know the family, I didn't realize it was from her family, and they are very bright people, very hardworking, good people.

So here is kind of her quote. She went to the Kaiser Family Foundation site to determine what her costs would be under the bills before Congress, and she figured out that her family's costs would double.

She says a small business is going to do a cost-benefit analysis, and they are just going to dump patients upon the public option because, why shouldn't they? Now, she says, I am quoting her, it seems like the people writing this are obtuse. They are not writing this for the middle class of the Nation. It is not centered on the patient. It feels rushed. It doesn't make sense; 2,000 pages, one week to digest it. It feels rushed.

She finishes up by saying, for all the possible plans, our premiums will double. It is very expensive. You can't get ahead. The more productive a citizen you try to become, it is like you take one step forward and go two steps back.

This is a bill which is two steps back.

Mr. BURGESS. If the gentleman would yield on one point, it is hard to see if we make health care more expensive that we are going to make it more affordable.

I yield back my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I think, in summary, in closing up this evening, what we have got this week is a discussion, I think the single biggest social discussion we have had in this Nation in 50 years, since Medicare. The challenge is how do we make health care affordable, and how do we provide it for the citizens now who don't have it?

I think, as Dr. BURGESS stated just a moment ago, that right now, the bill before us, they are not our solutions. We keep hearing there are no Republican solutions. There absolutely are. They are not on the table. They are not being discussed. This bill right here, H.R. 3962, all 1,990 pages, that is what

we are discussing this week, and, as Dr. FLEMING said, we are probably going to vote on this week.

So I think that this needs to be looked at as quickly as we can by the American people to try to peel this onion back, so to say, and look at what's there. I appreciate my colleagues being here tonight, and we'll be here throughout this week to further discuss this bill and what is in this bill.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and November 3.

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and November 3.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel difficulties.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today, November 3 and 4 on account of the birth of a child.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCNERNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, November 6 and 9.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, November 6 and 9.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today, November 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today, November 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, for 5 minutes, November 3.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, for 5 minutes, November 3, 4 and 5.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, November 6.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2996. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3606. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to make a technical correction